

BIG STRUGGLES MADE BY BALTIC STATES AFTER SORE WOES

Looted by Russians, Germans and Reds in Turn During Fighting.

HARMONY COMING, TOO

Dr. Holsti, Finnish Minister, Predicts Influence on Latvian Subjects.

TRADE PICKING UP FAST

Finnish, Estonians, Letts, Lithuanians, Poles, Swedes and Danes Near Cooperation.

By CAPT. FRANCIS McCULLAGH.
Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

HELSINKI, March 20.—In the course of a long interview with Dr. Rudolf Holsti, Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his official residence, I told him that I was visiting all the new republics in northeastern Europe, and remarked that Finland seems to have made greater progress than any other. He hastened to defend Finland's sister republics.

"When I think," he said, "of the deplorable condition in which the retreat of the Germans and the Russians left these little States I am really amazed at the progress they have made. The Russians carried away all they could: the Germans took what little the Russians had left; and then the Reds smashed up what could not be moved."

Estonia had at one time only 10,000 roubles in her treasury, but we made her an advance of 40,000,000 marks. How, in these circumstances, these little countries ever managed in such a short space of time to make the progress they have made is little short of miraculous.

The appearance of five new sovereign States on the shores of the Baltic is an event of some importance to all Europe even in this epoch of great events. The civilization and the religion of all in western and central Europe are, therefore, to delay in recognizing them until the bulk of the Russian people have reached the same stage of development which they have reached.

Illustrates Flaw in Plan.
"To do so would be like keeping back the advanced classes in a school until the backward children had caught up to them. This sound policy, in my opinion, would be to help and encourage all these States as much as possible after having first recognized their *de jure* independence."

The example of industry, orderly development and political moderation which they will give to Russia cannot fail to have its effect on that country, no matter what form of government it assumes. When the Russian people see busy factories, contented workmen, prosperous railways, flourishing ports and a satisfied peasantry in these republics, they cannot but be powerfully impressed, and not all the sophistries of theorists will be able to undo that impression.

"A hasty observer might be inclined to conclude from present indications that Finland and these new States will never be able to act harmoniously with one another and with the old established Baltic kingdoms, but as a matter of fact the misunderstandings on which such a conclusion would be based are only ripples on the surface, not unbridgeable chasms. The present controversy between ourselves and the Swedes on the Åland Islands question and that between the Lithuanians and the Poles on the Vilna matter are transitory. The Scandinavian kingdoms and the new republics are as a matter of fact bound together by the remembrance of political connection in the past or by the expectation of close and mutually beneficial commercial relations in the future. "The Estonians are racially akin to us. Poland and Lithuania have a strongly Latin civilization; and a glance at the map shows how inevitable it is that geographical contiguity, trade relations and common interests will bring us all together. Swedish volunteers helped to free Estonia. Estonian volunteers marched into Latvia against the Germans. In a short time all present causes of friction will have been removed, and Finland, Estonians, Letts, Lithuanians, Poles, Swedes and Danes will be cooperating harmoniously on the shores of the Baltic."

Back Door to Britain Opened.
"I do not speak of Germany and Russia, but I see no reason why these two Powers should not also be partners, and even leading partners in that peaceful work. It would be idle, of course, to ignore the possibility of their coming together at some future period in hostility to England; and it was this possibility we had in mind when we acquired Pechenga a back door to which we mean to build a railway and through which we can always communicate with Great Britain, summer and winter, without having to traverse the Baltic. But this is of course one of those remote contingencies about which every Foreign Office has to think."

"See no reason, I repeat, why all the peoples on the shores of the Baltic and the Gulf of Finland should not cooperate in harmony; and I do not think that the existence of independent republics between her and the Baltic can interfere with Russia's use of that sea any more than the existence of Denmark, Belgium and Holland have interfered with Germany's use of the North Sea."

"This old contention of some great empires that little maritime nations block their way to the open sea has always left me unmoved. As Napoleon's famous jibe, the Germans often say that Holland is only the mud of a German river, but the existence of Holland did not prevent the Germans from becoming at one time a great maritime Power; and the existence of independent republics at the eastern end of the Baltic will not interfere in the least with Russia's commerce through that sea."

"As a matter of fact the existence of those independent republics will help Russia, for two of them, at least, are made up of seafaring folk, with great commercial energy, while all of them enjoy, if I might be allowed to say so, a reputation for business integrity. Both for their own sakes as well as for Russia's, they have all a sincere desire to help in Russia's commercial development."

"The new Russia which we are all looking forward to will enjoy special

Pearls in Mediterranean Laid to Suez Currents

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
Paris, April 16.

THE Suez Canal has resulted in an unexpected increase in the potential wealth of Italy and France. It was discovered last month that the Mediterranean waters are filled with pearls of the highest quality, some of extraordinary size, as a result of a strange oyster malady which is being carried westward by the Suez currents. The colors of the pearls range from azure to pink, but according to the first specimens, they are more valuable than the average pearls found in Indian waters. The Italian Government is sending a special mission of experts to report on the exploitation possibilities, while the French are reported to be already installing a pearl fishing station off the Moroccan coast as well as in coves off the Riviera. The richest fields, however, are reported to be off the Tripolitan coast.

transport facilities through Finland, Estonia and Latvia, as well as I think I am only stating a simple fact when I say that Latvia and Finland will look after the shipping side of northern Russia's foreign commerce rather than Russia could look after it herself. They have both a great deal to gain by facilitating that commerce and it would be unthinkable of them to obstruct it; that would be equivalent to cutting off their nose to spite their face.

"Yet there is a vague idea abroad that the future Russian Government must get right to the Baltic because she alone can furnish the big men. As a matter of fact it is quite the other way round—so far at least as commercial, technical and administrative work is concerned. Big Russia produces the small men and the little States on her frontier produce the big men. Moreover, it will be found, I think, that owing to their Western mentality, the statesmen of the border States will be easier for the West to understand and deal with than the Slav mystics and theorists in a Moscow which will no longer have Finland, Poland and Latvia to draw upon."

"The big problem in this part of the world is undoubtedly Russia, but I have preferred, so far, to deal with the new Baltic States because I know them, than with that baffling Muscovite Sphinx which nobody knows and about which all prophets have prophesied wrong. I have just had, however, from a high Bolshevik authority a rather interesting statement on the future of Russia, and I shall give it to you for what it is worth. That statement runs as follows:

"We have used up all our energy and all our resources during the last four years in fighting external enemies so that we had nothing left for the formation of a governmental and cultural centre. We shall now turn all our attention to the work of creating such a centre, and in the course of that work we shall gradually drop everything which is impracticable and which the Russian people cannot absorb."

"The meaning of this, I take it, is that Bolshevism is about to be greatly modified, and that process of modification will go on till in a few years there will be little of the original Communism left. The calling in of foreign capital is a distinct surrender of Communist principles; and it may be, of course, that the sort of Socialist system which at present exists will be unable to stand such a great change and will disappear altogether, to be replaced by something entirely different. But I leave the statement to speak for itself. It would be indiscreet of me to make any further comment on it."

"The Disarmament Commission, headed by former Premier Viviani of France, Fisher of Great Britain and former Premier Orlando of Italy, will begin its labors soon. Commenting thereon, Mr. Sweetser says:

"In view of the foundations already laid by the different elements of the league, it would seem difficult to initiate any productive disarmament plans outside the league except upon the single question of naval production, which depends very largely, of course, on the United States."

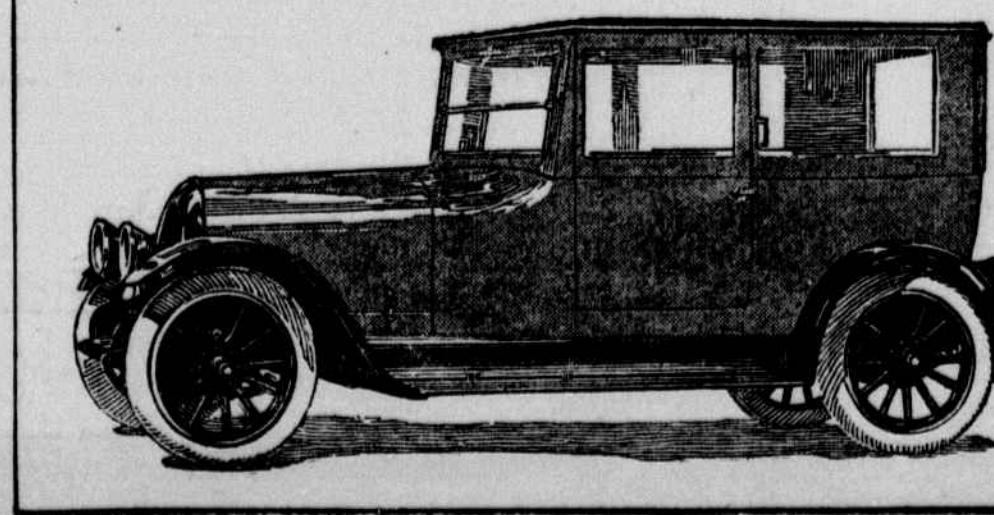
Mr. Sweetser points out that the Disarmament Commission is one of the strongest bodies yet brought together

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SUMMER WORK OF LEAGUE OUTLINED

Mandates for 13,000,000 of Backward Peoples Are Up to Council in June.

YAP DISPOSAL IN DOUBT

Disarmament Commission, Headed by Viviani, Will Begin Labors Soon.

COVENANT TO BE REVISED

Judges of International Arbitration Court Should Be Elected This Spring.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
GENEVA, April 1.—An outline of the work to be undertaken by the various commissions of the League of Nations this summer has been prepared by Arthur Sweetser of the Secretariat of the League. Preparations for this work were made at the last meeting of the Council of the League, which ended in Paris March 4.

Mr. Sweetser pointed out in his forecast of the season's work of the league that the situation affecting the mandates over about 13,000,000 of backward peoples would again be brought up for discussion at the next meeting of the council, which, it is now announced, will be held in June next.

He expressed the hope that the United States would be represented at this meeting of the council so as to present through its representatives its objections to the allocation to Japan of the mandate over Yap and the other Pacific islands north of the equator and to Great Britain over the Mesopotamian oil region.

(This suggestion by Mr. Sweetser, however, was made before Secretary of State Hughes sent to the allied Powers early in April his note asserting that the allied mandates were invalid unless American assent to them were given. In view of these notes the Council of the league at its next meeting may postpone action on the mandates.)

Working on Disarmament.

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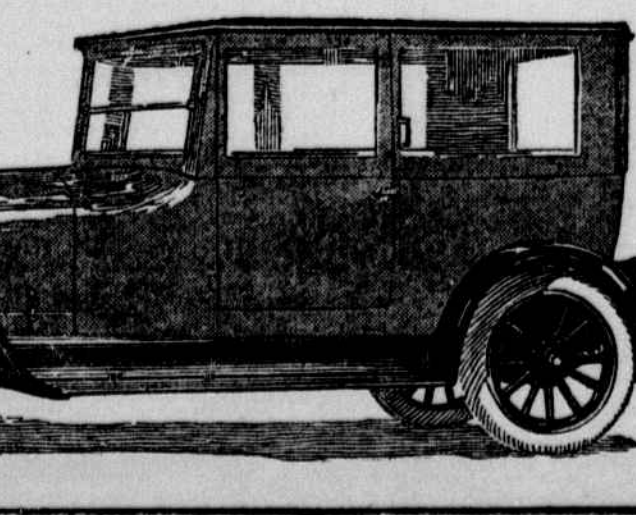
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SOVIETS SEEKING CHURCH BACKING IN BID FOR POWER

Successors of Early Christians, They Contend—Combating Militarism as Did Early Saints Is Another Plea They Make.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
Paris, April 16.

The Soviets are making one last bid for world popularity by pleading that they are the logical successors to the early Christians, Sovietism being merely a modern application of Christ's doctrine of fraternalism and equality to the extreme, and therefore there is nothing in variance with the churches of to-day in Moscow's revolutionary mission.

M. de Toury, one of Marcel Cachin's extremists, overstepped the limit this week, however, and called down the rage of those professing to be Chris-

tians when he charged the church with deliberately turning its back on the ethical and social principles of its founders. The Socialists, or, to be more precise, Lenin and Trotsky's disciples, profess that they are combating militarism as did the early saints, including Maximilian, who was decapitated in the fourth century for the same offence.

In their new propaganda the Communists have merely taken a leaf from the book of Lausbury, the Socialist editor, who for several years captured a following by insisting that if he had not been a Christian he would not have become a Socialist.

The committee of the league in charge of the suppression of opium traffic will be asked to meet by the beginning of the first of June.

Another committee will attempt to work out detailed machinery for the application of the economic blockade to a nation going to war in defiance of its agreements.

Still another committee will consider the full scope of Article XVII for the registration of treaties and international agreements.

The secretariat of the league and the International Labor Office will be gone over to ascertain whether they are operating efficiently and economically.

The international credit scheme, commonly known as the Ter Meulen plan, for the extension of credits under the League of Nations for the purpose of helping to restart the economic cycle will be facilitated, says Mr. Sweetser, as a result of approval given by the council to the work already begun by the commission in charge of that plan.

MARRIAGE BOOM IN BRITAIN.
Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
Paris, April 16.

The idea of using German labor and material for reconstruction work in France is gaining favor in the devastated regions, chiefly owing to the slim prospects of the Allies being able to force Germany to pay the total reparations sum demanded in gold.

French experts favoring the scheme point out that Germany could repair the destruction in the French departments with her own labor and materials and at the same time could pay her labor in paper marks which for France would be a lot better than getting neither gold nor reconstruction. The reconstruction work which France is doing now at a

cost of \$750,000,000 annually, the money being advanced by France and charged to Germany, the Germans themselves could do for \$550,000,000, and at the same time by accepting this as an equivalent of gold it would bring relief to the French budget to that extent.

Labor leaders also favor the plan because, as they put it, since capitalism has failed to solve the problem it is now up to the labor in both countries to get together.

BOLSHEVISM CALLED RUINOUS TO CHILDREN
Baroness Wrangel Says Their Minds Are Stolen.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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CONSTANTINOPLE, April 16.—The Baroness Wrangel, wife of the general who commanded the anti-Bolshevik army in southern Russia, declares that the "demoralization of our boys and girls, the next generation of Russians, is one of the blackest tragedies of the Bolsheviki nightmare. They have stolen the minds of our children."

Abundant evidence from trustworthy sources among the vast Russian refugee colony here is available on this subject. "Our girls are dead, morally," is a phrase in a letter dated a month ago received here from Moscow, smuggled out by way of Reval, written by a woman to her nephew in Wrangel's army. "I am kept alive only by the hope of seeing you again. Never return here with your children. If they survive famine and disease the Bolsheviki will make animals of them."

One of the demands of the workmen in Moscow and other cities has been that the Communist education of children be abandoned.

ASHAMED OF GERMANY, BUT MUST GO THERE
Woman Failed to Register as Enemy Alien in England.

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Mrs. Ellen Bacher, who was brought into the Highgate police station this week and charged with failing to register as an enemy alien during the war, told the court she was ashamed of being a German and did not want to return to Germany. She surrendered now because she wanted to go to Holland.

Mrs. Bacher was well dressed and appeared to be a highly cultured woman. Witnesses said that for a long time she had been aiding the poor in her neighborhood. She said she had hoped to conceal her nationality for all time, but the magistrate recommended that she be deported to Germany and fined ten shillings.

GERMAN PLAN FOR RAVAGED FRANCE

Would Furnish Material and Labor for Work of Reconstruction.

USE STANDARDIZED PARTS

French Realize Benefit to Both Economically and Industrially.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
Berlin, April 16.

A plan for restoring the destroyed buildings in northern France with standardized material comparable to toy building blocks was laid before the German Government at a recent conference by one of the Mannesmann brothers, the well known Rhineland manufacturers. The Mannesmann plan is for Germany to provide the material ready made to fit which can be put together into modern dwellings in an amazingly short time.

The standardized parts would not be designed to fit houses of any one type, but like stone blocks could be used to erect houses with a wide range of architectural variety. Mannesmann informed the Government that they could begin the manufacture of standardized parts at once in any quantity desired and submitted charts and drawings which convinced his hearers that an interesting solution of the reconstruction problem had been shown them.

It was the opinion of the conference that if the French insisted on the rejection of cooperation with German labor in rebuilding at least the Germans should propose to furnish the materials and that this should be subtracted from the total of reparations payments.

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TRAMP FROM SEATTLE INTERESTS PARISIANS

Walks in From Antwerp on His Way to Monaco.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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Barheaded and barefooted and with a blanket rolled on his back, Hippolyte Martinet, a globe trotter from Seattle, Wash., has reached Paris, walking here from Antwerp, where he disembarked last week from a steamship, arriving there from New York.

Martinet attracted an immense throng as he walked through the Champs Elysees toward the Bastille, where he passed the night. He hopes to reach Monaco by June 1 and to rest there for a month.

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TUESDAY EVENING OF THIS WEEK AT 8:15
AMERICAN PAINTINGS
THE WORK OF THE EMINENT ARTISTS
ALEXANDER HARRISON, N.